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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, PE, BL, BR, PA, EC, CO, VE
SUBJECT: TESTIMONY TO HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS TASK FORCE ON
NARCOTICS (MARCH 22, 1988)

1. INM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ANN WROBLESKI, ARA/AND DIRECTOR MICHAEL SKOL AND DEA DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TOM BYRNE APPEARED BEFORE THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TASK FORCE ON NARCOTICS MARCH 22 TO CONTINUE TESTIMONY BEGUN MARCH 17. CHAIRMAN SMITH RAISED NUMEROUS QUESTIONS ON THE NARCOTICS PROGRAMS IN COLOMBIA, PERU, PARAGUAY, BOLIVIA AND BRAZIL. CONGRESSMEN GILMAN PARTICIPATED BRIEFLY.
2. SKOL NOTED THE PARALLELS BETWEEN THE SITUATIONS IN COLOMBIA AND PERU. (ERADICATION AND SEIZURE STATISTICS TOO LOW, GOVERNMENTS INCREASINGLY THREATENED BY BOTH NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS AND GUERRILLA INSURGENTS.) HE ADDED THAT NEITHER GOVERNMENT HAD SUFFICIENT ARMED RESOURCES TO REACT EFFECTIVELY TO THE WARLIKE CONDITIONS THEY CONFRONTED. SKOL ALSO NOTED THAT AS U.S. ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS SUCCEED, U.S. PERSONNEL WILL FACE HIGHER THREAT LEVELS.
3. WROBLESKI EXPLAINED THAT THE LOW ERADICATION STATISTICS IN PERU COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE UHV, AND THE GOP'S INABILITY TO CONTROL THE REGION.
4. SMITH QUESTIONED PERU'S COMMITMENT TO ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS, AND NOTED THE USG IS SPENDING MORE MONEY WITH LESS ACCOMPLISHED EACH YEAR. HE ALSO ASKED HOW MUCH THE GOP HAD EXPENDED ON ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS AND WONDERED WHY THE PERUVIANS HAD BEEN UNABLE TO SEIZE MORE COCAINE PRODUCTS. HE ASKED HOW MANY MAJOR TRAFFICKERS HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND PROSECUTED IN PERU. IN RESPONSE, WROBLESKI SAID THAT WE WERE IMPRESSED WITH GENERAL ZARATE'S LEADERSHIP, BUT NOTED THAT WE HOPED THAT CORRUPT PIP FORCES WOULD BE REORGANIZED. SKOL, WHEN ASKED IF PERU SHOULD BE CERTIFIED, AGAIN EXPLAINED THAT THE SECURITY SITUATION WAS CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM. THE MILITARY WAS FIGHTING AND NOT WINNING, AND THE POLICE WERE

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UNABLE CONSISTENTLY TO PROTECT THE ERADICATION WORKERS. GILMAN REQUESTED MORE INFORMATION ON THE UHV DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, EXPENDITURES TO DATE AND MEASURES OF ITS EFFECTIVENESS.

5. GILMAN TURNED TO SKOL AND ASKED WHY, CONSIDERING THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE UHV, WE HAD NOT REQUESTED MORE MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR PERU. SKOL EXPLAINED THAT BECAUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKING, AND OTHER PRIORITIES, NO MILITARY GRANT ASSISTANCE WAS AVAILABLE FOR ANY SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY.

6. TURNING TO PARAGUAY, SMITH ASKED BYRNE IF THE PARAGUAYAN MILITARY STILL CONTROLLED THE CHACO REGION AND PREVENTED THE POLICE FROM ENTERING IT. BYRNE REPLIED THAT A DEA SENIOR AGENT HAD RECENTLY BEEN PERMITTED TO TRAVEL IN THE AREA. SMITH THEN ASKED IF THE "FRENCH CONNECTION" NETWORK STILL OPERATED IN PARAGUAY, TO WHICH BYRNE REPLIED NOT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE. SMITH QUERIED IF THE CHINESE/BOLIVIAN/PARAGUAYAN TRAFFICKER RING BROKEN UP IN 1986 HAD ANY RELATION TO THE RECENTLY ARRESTED MR. KHAN. BYRNE REPLIED THAT IT DID, BUT THE CASE WAS PENDING AND HE COULD NOT COMMENT. IN REPOSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF PARAGUAYAN OFFICIALS IN TRAFFICKING, BYRNE REPLIED THAT ALLEGATIONS HAD BEEN MADE, BUT NOT YET SUBSTANTIATED.

7. WROBLESKI EXPLAINED THE RATIONALE FOR A LIMITED TIME CERTIFICATION FOR PARAGUAY. THE ADMINISTRATION WILL TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT CERTIFICATION IN 60 DAYS, WHICH WILL ALLOW THE NEWLY OPENED DEA OFFICE IN ASUNCION TO BEGIN TO DEVELOP BILATERAL PROGRAMS. RUMORS OF GOP INVOLVEMENT IN TRAFFICKING CONTINUE TO BE INVESTIGATED.

8. SMITH THEN ASKED SKOL WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS THE BASIS FOR A "NATIONAL INTEREST" CERTIFICATION FOR PARAGUAY. SKOL REPLIED THAT OUR FIRST FIVE INTERESTS WERE DRUGS AND ANTI-NARCOTICS COOPERATION, BUT IT WAS ALSO IN THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN PARAGUAY.

9. ON BOLIVIA, SMITH ASKED WROBLESKI IF THE GOB HAD ARRESTED ANY TRAFFICKERS, AND IF EXTRADITION WERE A POSSIBILITY. HE ALSO WANTED TO KNOW WHY BOLIVIA HAD BEEN CERTIFIED. WROBLESKI REPLIED THAT EXTRADITION DEPENDED UPON U.S. INDICTMENTS. SHE SAID THAT THE SIGNATURE OF THE BILATERAL ANTI-NARCOTICS TREATY AND PROGRESS ON ERADICATION PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR FULL CERTIFICATION. SKOL ADDED THAT THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO PAIR VOLUNTARY ERADICATION WITH DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO PEASANT FARMERS; THE SYSTEM APPEARED TO BE WORKING AND PROCEEDING. HE NOTED THAT THE POLITICAL CLOUD OF THE PEASANT UNIONS AND BOLIVIA'S DEPRESSED ECONOMY COULD BOTH AFFECT THE SUCCESS OF FUTURE ERADICATION EFFORTS IN BOLIVIA.

11. ON BRAZIL, SMITH QUESTIONED THE ACCURACY OF THE INCSR STATISTICS ON ERADICATION AND CULTIVATION. HE ASKED HOW MUCH COCA WAS GROWN UNDER THE JUNGLE CANOPY. WROBLESKI REPLIED THAT THE US HAD NO GOOD STATISTICAL ESTIMATE, BUT ADMITTED THAT BRAZIL'S POTENTIAL CULTIVATION WAS ENORMOUS.

12. TURNING TO ECUADOR, SMITH ASKED HOW THE GOE, ALSO WITH A FAILING ECONOMY, HAD BEEN ABLE TO MUSTER THE WILL NECESSARY TO DEAL SUCCESSFULLY WITH THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. WROBLESKI REPLIED THAT, WHILE THE GOE HAD DEMONSTRATED ADMIRABLE POLITICAL WILL IN ATTACKING THE DRUG PROBLEM, ECUADOR'S NARCOTICS PROBLEM WAS OF MUCH

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LESSER SCALE THAN THAT OF THE COUNTRIES DISCUSSED
PREVIOUSLY.

13. SMITH CONCLUDED THE HEARINGS BY ASKING HOW LONG THE
USG SHOULD CONTINUE TO CERTIFY THESE COUNTRIES. HE
WONDERED ALOUD WHEN THE PEOPLE OF THESE NATIONS WOULD RUN
OUT OF PATIENCE WITH THE DRUG PROBLEM. HE OFFERED NO
SOLUTIONS BUT SAID THAT THE U.S. NEEDED TO FIND NEW
APPROACHES TO THE PROBLEM.

SHULTZ
END OF MESSAGE

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